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# Tough tactics urged against drug cartels

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER  
Herald Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Pressure is mounting on the Reagan administration to step up the fight against Latin America's mighty drug cartels by treating their penetration of armies and governments in the region as a threat to national security — and not just as a police problem.

The indictment of Panamanian military leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega on drug-related charges by two Florida grand juries this month has sparked a chorus of charges that the U.S. government is too willing to sacrifice drug smuggling for other political considerations.

Gen. Paul Gorman, the former chief of the Panama-based U.S. Southern Command, told a Senate Foreign Relations committee last week that U.S.

anti-drug efforts in recent years have been "halfhearted."

Senior U.S. officials are so preoccupied with Soviet-Cuban threats that they fail to devote enough resources to fight drug trafficking, he said.

Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Alphonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., among others in Congress, criticized the administration for allowing the CIA to maintain cozy relations with Noriega for many years despite suspicions that he was involved in drug dealings.

Many said the CIA turned a blind eye on Noriega's drug connections because he was secretly helping the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan contras.

"Stopping drug trafficking into the United States has been a secondary U.S. foreign policy objective," Kerry said. "It was sacrificed repeatedly for other political goals."

Drug-trafficking rings are suspected of having ties with the Cuban government and are known to be a major source of funding for various Latin American leftist guerrilla groups.

Many in Congress fear that countries like Honduras, a staunch U.S. ally in Central America, might turn against the United States if the drug cartels are allowed to continue penetrating their armed forces.

In addition, congressional critics of the administration's policy say the massive corruption of Latin America's ruling classes brought about by drug barons is eroding U.S. efforts to promote democracy in the region. This increases the chances of leftist insurgencies, they say.

They point to indications that drug rings, especially Colombia's powerful Medellin Cartel, are making inroads in military and government circles throughout the region:

• Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler, is closely associated with the cartel and makes millions by providing protection to drug

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## CONNECTIONS TO THE CARTELS



**Manuel Antonio Noriega**

Panama's ruler makes millions by protecting drug smugglers, U.S. indictments say.



**Jean-Claude Paul**

Top Haitian military official may be indicted in U.S. soon, accused of heavy drug dealing.



**Norman Saunders**

Former chief minister of Turks and Caicos Islands was convicted on drug-smuggling charges in 1985.

smugglers, according to indictments by grand juries in Miami and Tampa.

● At least one top military official in Haiti, Col. Jean-Claude Paul, is deeply involved in drug dealing, U.S. law enforcement officials say. U.S. attorneys in Miami are preparing an indictment against Paul, sources say.

● Honduras' armed forces officials are increasingly involved in drug smuggling, U.S. officials say. Honduras' powerful military chief, Gen. Humberto Regalado Hernandez, is among those believed to be providing protection to Colombian drug smugglers, senior administration officials were quoted as saying in Saturday's Los Angeles Times.

● Former Chief Minister Norman Saunders of the Turks and Caicos Islands was convicted on drug-smuggling charges in 1985 and sentenced to four years in prison. Stafford Missick, who was the nation's minister of commerce and development, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on similar charges.

● Federico Vaughan, a close aide to Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, was indicted in



**Stafford Missick**

Turks and Caicos' minister of commerce was sentenced to 10 years in prison on drug charges.



**Federico Vaughan**

Close aide to Nicaraguan interior minister was indicted in 1984 by a Miami grand jury on drug charges.



**Carlos Lehder**

Cartel kingpin was active in politics and contributor to Colombian presidential campaigns.

## **"I'm very concerned about allegations of drug smuggling in Haiti."**

— Sen. Bob Graham

he belongs, has scheduled hearings this week on the spread of smuggling.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Jack Hook said better technology such as the Blue Lightning speed boats and improved radar tracking, along with more cooperation from Bahamian authorities, have limited the drug routes into South Florida.

"We have seen an increase in Haiti being used as a transshipment point since we stepped up enforcement," Hook said.

He said the Paul case does not indicate that the entire Haitian government is involved in the smuggling, just as the recent arrest of U.S. military personnel smuggling cocaine from Panama to Puerto Rico does not indicate the Army condones trafficking.

"The message that this case sends is the corrupting effects on public officials everywhere because of drug trafficking," Hook said.

Asked about Quintana's charges that other Haitian officials are involved, Hook said that the investigation into the Paul case was continuing.

U.S. Rep. Larry Smith, D-Fla., was more outspoken about the Haitian connection.

"More than two years ago I questioned the DEA about increased drug trafficking

through Haiti, and about government involvement in the traffic," Smith said recently.

He said the DEA told him at that time that they had no information on official Haitian involvement in drug smuggling.

"This is the kind of head-in-the-sand attitude that has allowed government after government to fall prey to the Colombian cartels," Smith said.

Whether it is a few corrupt officials, a policy of the new military-supported government, or just coincidence, Haiti's role has increased since the military took power.

"There has been some increase in drug interceptions since the Haitian government changed two years ago," U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Jim Simpson said.

He said drug officials are spotting more planes flying over the Haitian half of the island of Hispanola, which Haiti shares with the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic recently shot down the plane of a suspected trafficker, but Simpson said Haiti does not have the resources to chase drug planes.

Hook said that since November, the DEA has had an office open in Port-au-Prince, and is optimistic that Haitian of-



**Col. Jean-Claude Paul**

officials will cooperate in the effort to stop trafficking.

In the 90 days prior to the DEA's arrival, Haitian customs officials seized 1,500 pounds of cocaine hidden on various planes at Port-au-Prince's airport, he said.

And the Paul case should make it even more difficult for traffickers, he said.

He said it may chase the traffickers away, looking for less publicized routes to bring their drugs into the United States.

Hook said no one should expect that if Haiti clamps down on cocaine smuggling, all trafficking will cease. Smugglers are already using Cuba, the Turks and Caicos Islands and other routes.

"There is no Caribbean island close to the United States that has gone unscathed," Hook said. "It just shows the magnitude of the problem."

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**SUN SENTINEL**

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# Indictment of military officer sheds light on

## Haiti's drug role

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The drug indictment of a top Haitian military officer has spotlighted that nation's emergence as a way station for cocaine traffickers, and reinforces charges that corrupt officials are aiding the smugglers.

Col. Jean-Claude Paul, his brother, and ex-wife were charged last week with using a landing strip on the colonel's farm to fly a 100 kilogram cocaine shipment to the Bahamas for delivery to Miami.

Haitian President Leslie Manigat has turned Paul's case over to his country's military courts for investigation.

One of the principal witnesses in the Paul case, Osvaldo Quintana, said in January that he saw 9,000 kilograms of cocaine stuffed into duffel bags in the Haitian presidential palace during the administration of ousted leader Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Quintana also said that other Haitian officials had a role in the smuggling.

The reported trafficking by high-level Haitians has angered U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., who said he will introduce legislation this week to remove U.S. trade preferences with Haiti.

"I'm very concerned about allegations of drug smuggling in Haiti," Graham said. "This indictment is further indication that we can't tolerate a regime in Haiti that seized power from the Haitian people so it could continue the oppression of the past."

Graham said the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, to which

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# Informant details his ties to Haiti cocaine smuggling

By **FELICIA R. LEE**  
Herald Staff Writer

Osvaldo Quintana, an informant in a probe of Haitian cocaine smuggling, on Monday told a tale of how a middle-class family man and entrepreneur ended up involved in smuggling drugs and fearing for his life.

"It was the most stupid thing I've ever done in my life," said Quintana, who became an informant after he was arrested in January 1987 for trying to smuggle 100 kilograms of cocaine into the United States.

From his seafood business, he said he acquired "a BMW, a Porsche, a home in Kendall. Now, I can't work. I got my passport confiscated. I had to sell my house."

Quintana, in a news conference at the office of his attorney, Ellis Rubin, reiterated his charge that top Haitian government officials are smuggling Colombian cocaine through Haiti to Miami.

Miami Herald sources have confirmed that a federal grand jury is hearing testimony about a Drug Enforcement Administration investigation of Colombian drug smuggling through Haiti. Sources say indictments are forthcoming. Col. Jean-Claude Paul, the commander of the Haitian army's largest battalion, is a target of the probe, according to sources.

A pudgy 35-year-old Cuban native and one-time owner of Ocean International Seafood, 7957 NW 69th St., Quintana first went public with his remarks last month. He testified in federal court that he had seen cocaine stuffed in army duffel bags in the presidential palace and that Paul's

army-guarded ranch with a secret two-mile airstrip was used to bring the cocaine from Colombia.

The father of four said he became involved in drug smuggling in August 1986 after meeting Mireille Delinois, Paul's ex-wife. She was introduced to him by relatives. Delinois told Quintana that she had money she needed to get out of Haiti and that she was interested in importing lobster tails from there to Miami.

"We originally were talking about having a legitimate business and before I knew it I was involved in an illegal business," Quintana said. "She asked me if I knew anybody who could buy some cocaine."

Delinois said she had 412 kilos she needed to unload, Quintana said. He said he contacted a friend,

who contacted a friend. Delinois promised him \$100,000 for setting up the deal and gave him a letter of credit for a deposit at Ocean Bank, Quintana said.

The deal, which was made with Paul and never materialized, involved stolen some. Quintana was arrested. The deal ended.

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